



No. 288 Rs

# Bikal the Terrible and The Tiger-Tamers



— TALES FROM  
MADHYA PRADESH

Art by Kadam



# BIKAL THE TERRIBLE

There are many who love to tell a story and many more who love to listen to one. And each time a story is retold, it acquires a new colour and a fresh dimension.

The grandmother who heard a story as a little girl from her grandmother, tells the same story to her grandchild but with a few embellishments of her own. The traveller from a distant land who happens to hear a story in the course of his travels, later tells it to his own people, modifying it to make it more dramatic or more acceptable to his audience. That is how stories which had first been told centuries ago have been kept alive and why we find recurring themes in the tales told in different regions separated by hundreds of miles.

The stories in this Amar Chitra Katha are adapted from two popular tribal tales of Madhya Pradesh.

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# BIKAL, THE TERRIBLE



A TIGER OFTEN WANDERED INTO A VILLAGE NEAR THE FOREST WHERE HE LIVED.

ONE NIGHT AS HE WAS PROWLING OUTSIDE A MERCHANT'S HOUSE —

I AM GOING OUT, FATHER.

AT THIS HOUR?

AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF BIKAL\*?

?

WITH BIKAL AROUND, EVEN THE BRAVEST OF MEN THINK TWICE BEFORE VENTURING OUT IN THE NIGHT.

WHO IS THIS BIKAL?

... HE BEGAN TO IMAGINE ALL SORTS OF THINGS ...

AS THE TIGER WALKED AWAY...



\* A WORD USED BY THE TRIBALS FOR THAT WHICH IS TO BE FEARED, IN THIS CASE THE PROWLING TIGER.



...AND WAS FRIGHTENED.

I'D BETTER HIDE  
SOMEWHERE  
FOR THE NIGHT  
...BUT WHERE?



AH,  
THAT  
SHED!



LATER THAT NIGHT, THIEVES BROKE  
INTO THE HOUSE OF THE MERCHANT...

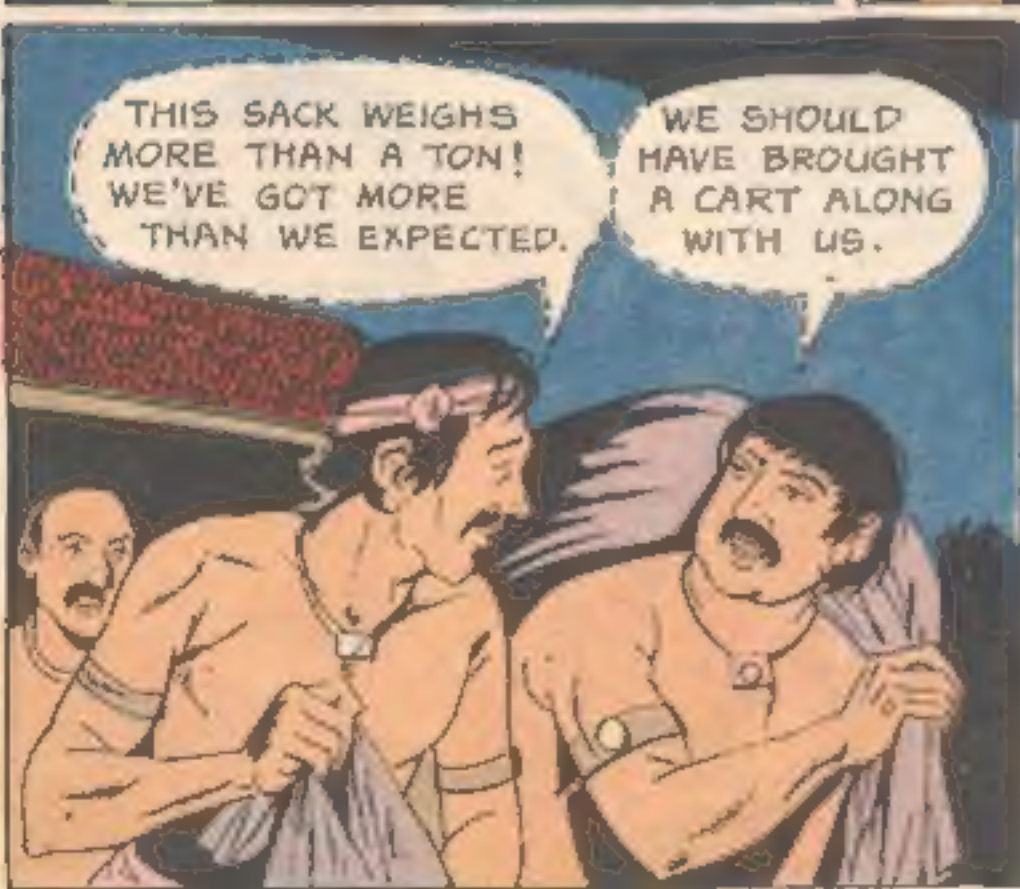


...AND CAME AWAY WITH TWO SACKS OF LOOT.



THIS SACK WEIGHS  
MORE THAN A TON!  
WE'VE GOT MORE  
THAN WE EXPECTED.

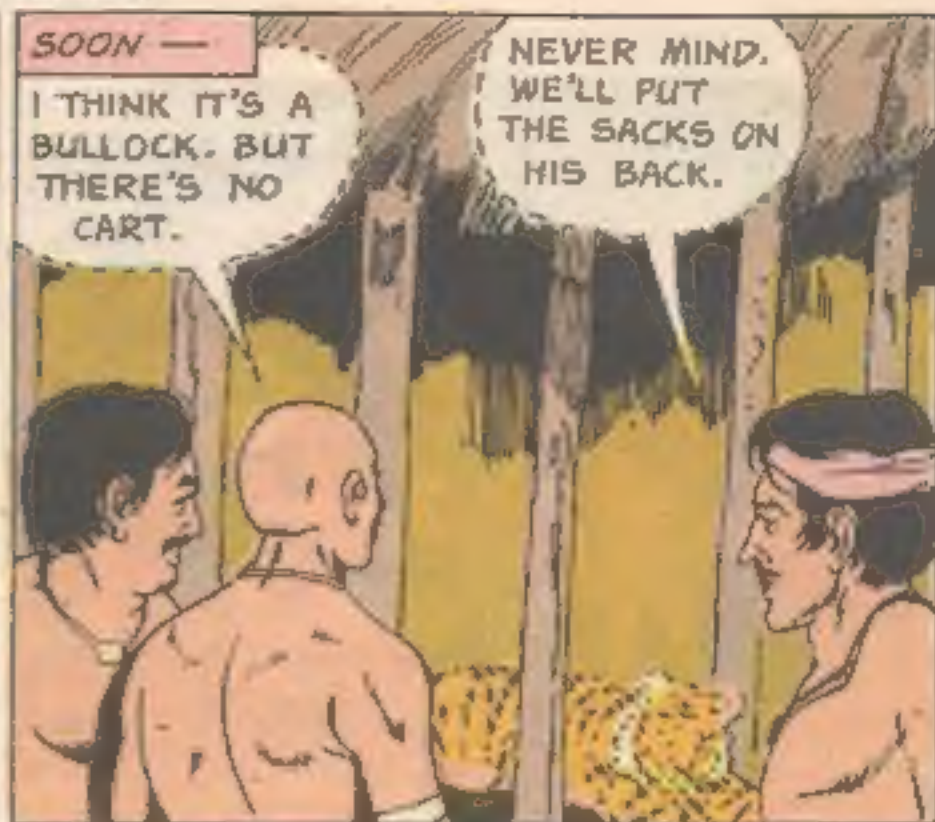
WE SHOULD  
HAVE BROUGHT  
A CART ALONG  
WITH US.



WE MIGHT  
FIND ONE IN  
THAT SHED.









AS THE LOOT WAS LOADED ON HIS BACK—



NO ORDINARY  
MAN WOULD DARE  
TREAT ME SO. MY  
WORST FEARS  
HAVE COME  
TRUE!



I AM IN THE  
CLUTCHES OF THE  
TERRIBLE BIKAL  
AND HIS FRIENDS!



OOOOH!  
THE LOAD IS  
HEAVY. BUT  
I DARE NOT  
PROTEST.



WE ARE RICH MEN  
NOW. I'LL BUY AS  
MANY GOATS AS  
I CAN WITH MY  
SHARE.

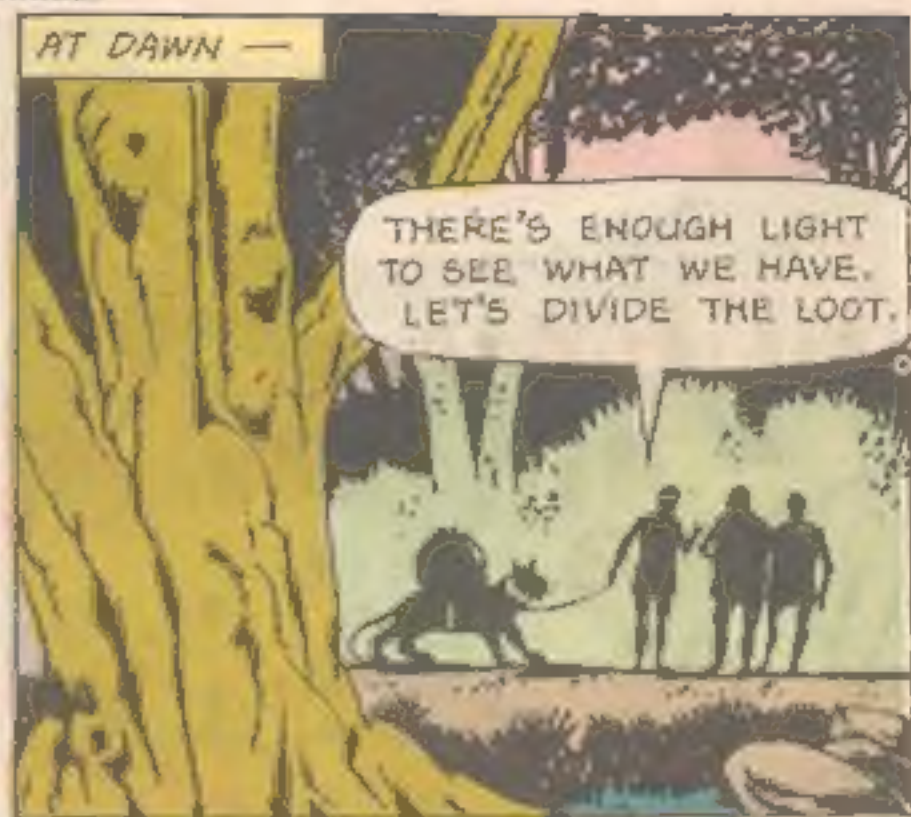
I'LL BUY  
SOME LAND.



AS FOR  
ME, I WILL  
GET  
MARRIED.









OH, WHAT A FOOL I HAVE  
MADE OF MYSELF! THEY  
WERE JUST MEN—  
ORDINARY MEN!



EVERYONE WILL  
LAUGH AT ME  
IF THEY COME  
TO HEAR OF  
THIS.



AS HE WAS WANDERING AROUND, FEELING  
RATHER ASHAMED OF HIMSELF, THE  
BUNDLE ON HIS BACK GOT CAUGHT  
BETWEEN TWO ROCKS.



OOOF! NOW  
HOW DO I GET  
OUT?

JUST THEN HE SPOTTED A COWHERD.



O COWHERD...



DON'T  
RUN AWAY.  
I WON'T  
EAT YOU.

IT'S BIKAL!

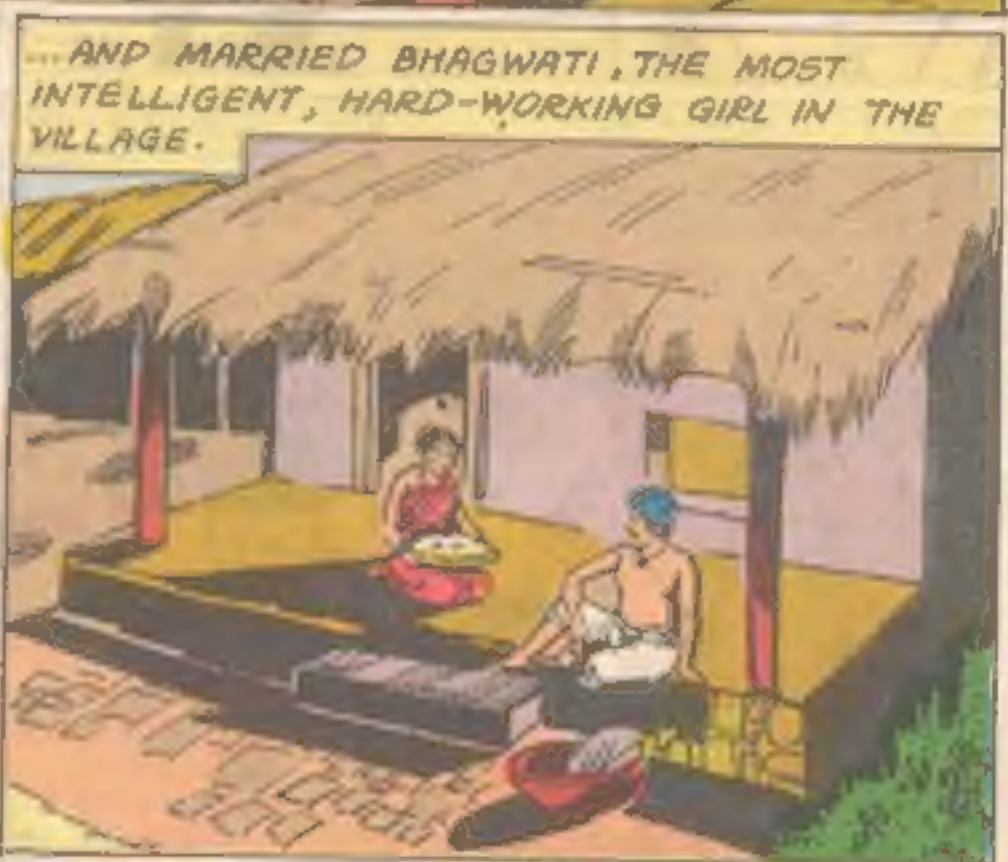
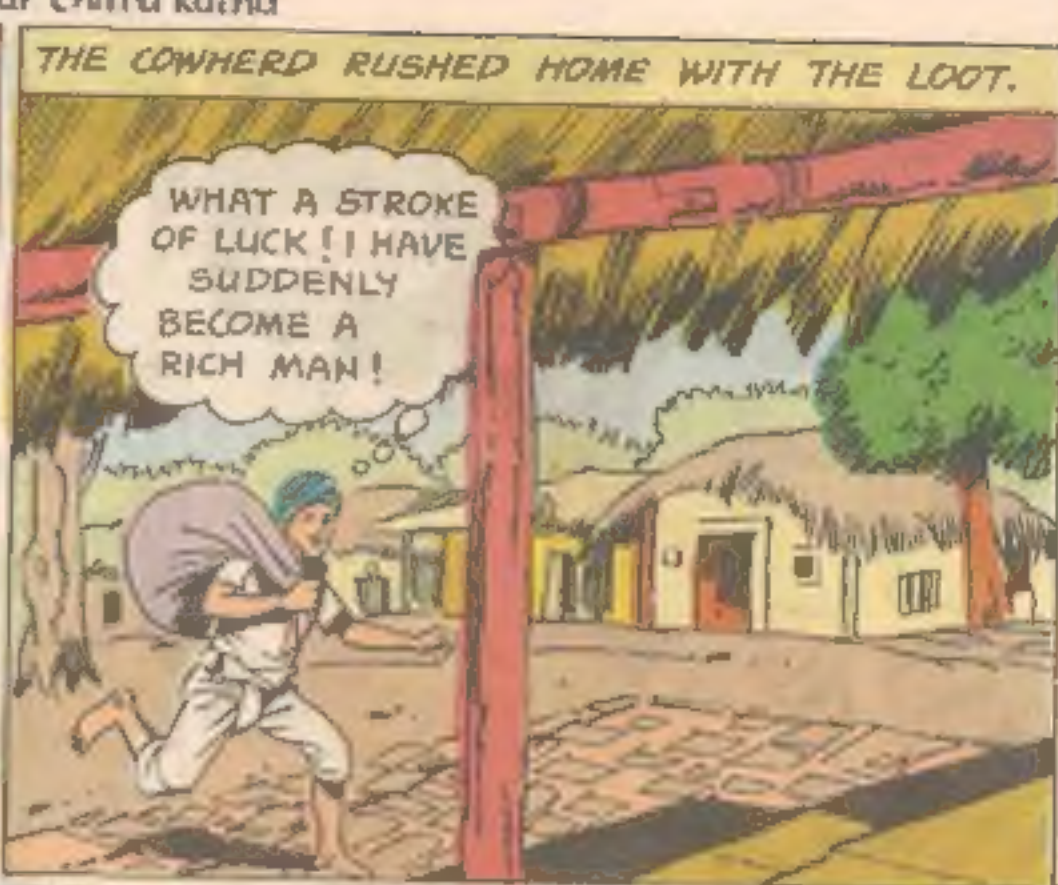


PLEASE COME  
BACK. SOMEBODY  
HAS TIED THIS  
SACK ON MY BACK.  
PLEASE TAKE IT  
DOWN. I SWEAR  
I WON'T HARM  
YOU.

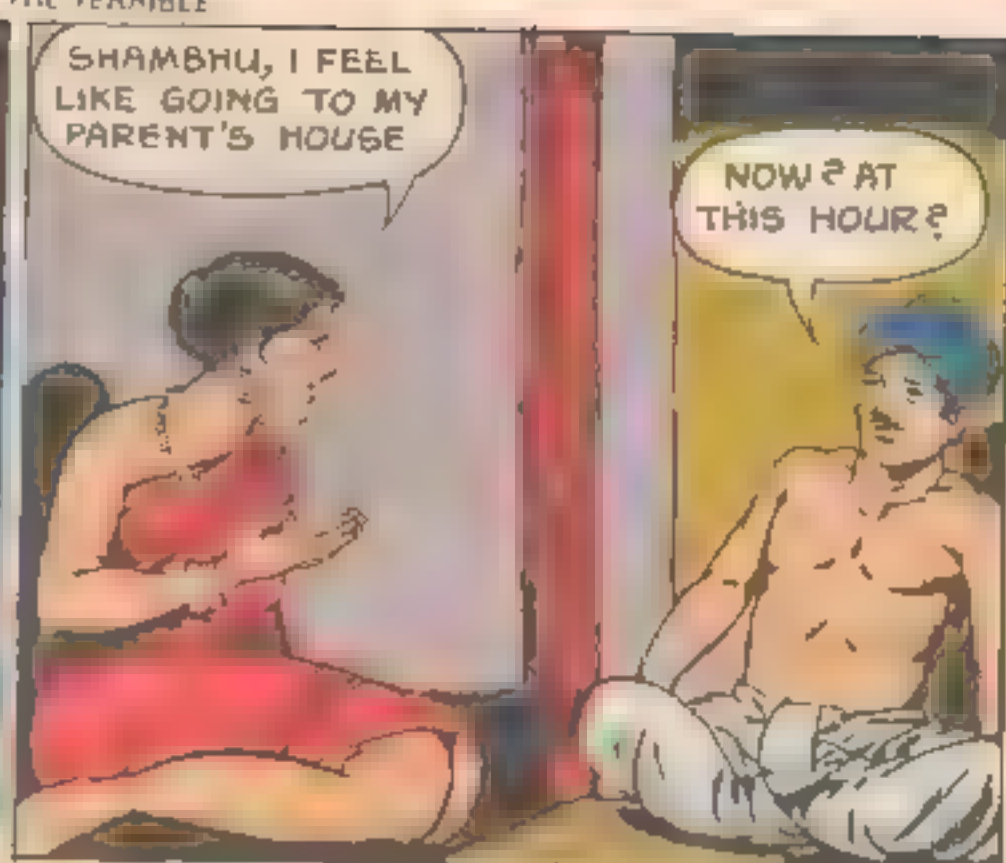














STEALTHILY LIFTED THE SLEEPING SHAMBHU ...



AND LEFT WITHOUT DISTURBING BHAGWATI.



HE CARRIED THE LOWHERD TO THE FOREST. THERE, HE THREW HIM DOWN WITH A THUD

OW!! WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPPENED?



OH! IT'S YOU

YES, YOU BROKE YOUR PROMISE SO I AM GOING TO EAT YOU



WAIT! EAT ME BY ALL MEANS BUT IN THE MORNING.

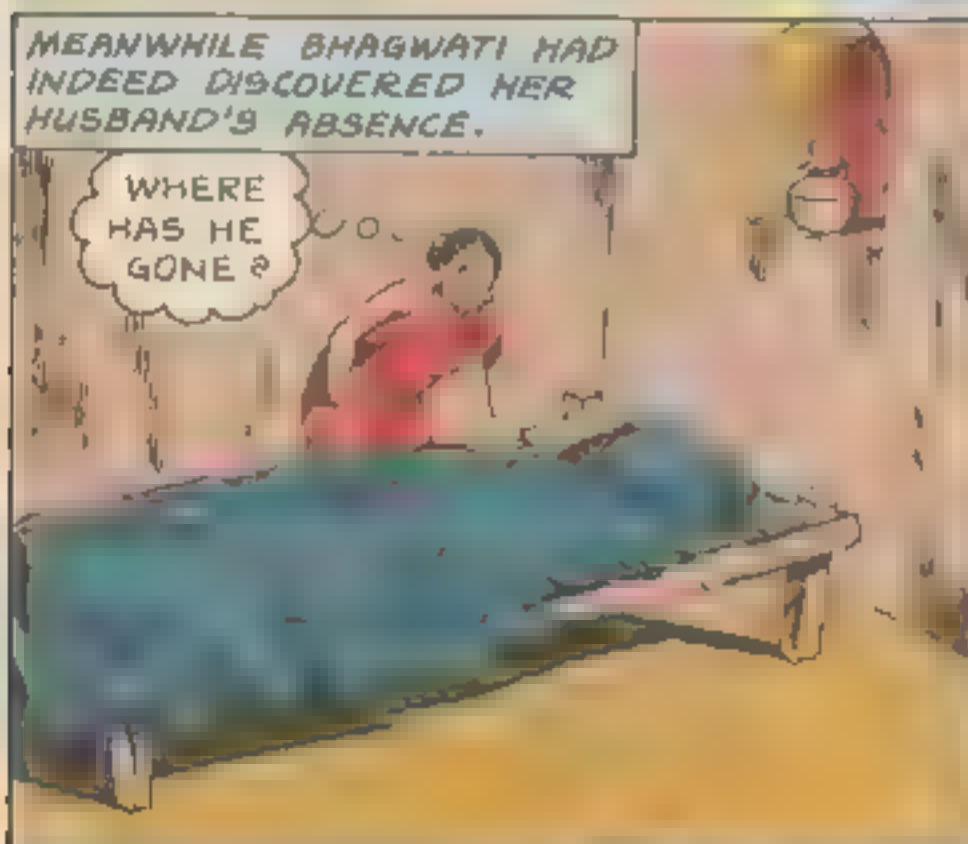
WHY NOT NOW?



MY FLESH IS TOUGH NOW BECAUSE OF THE COLD, BUT IT WILL BECOME TENDER AND WARM WITH THE MORNING SUN





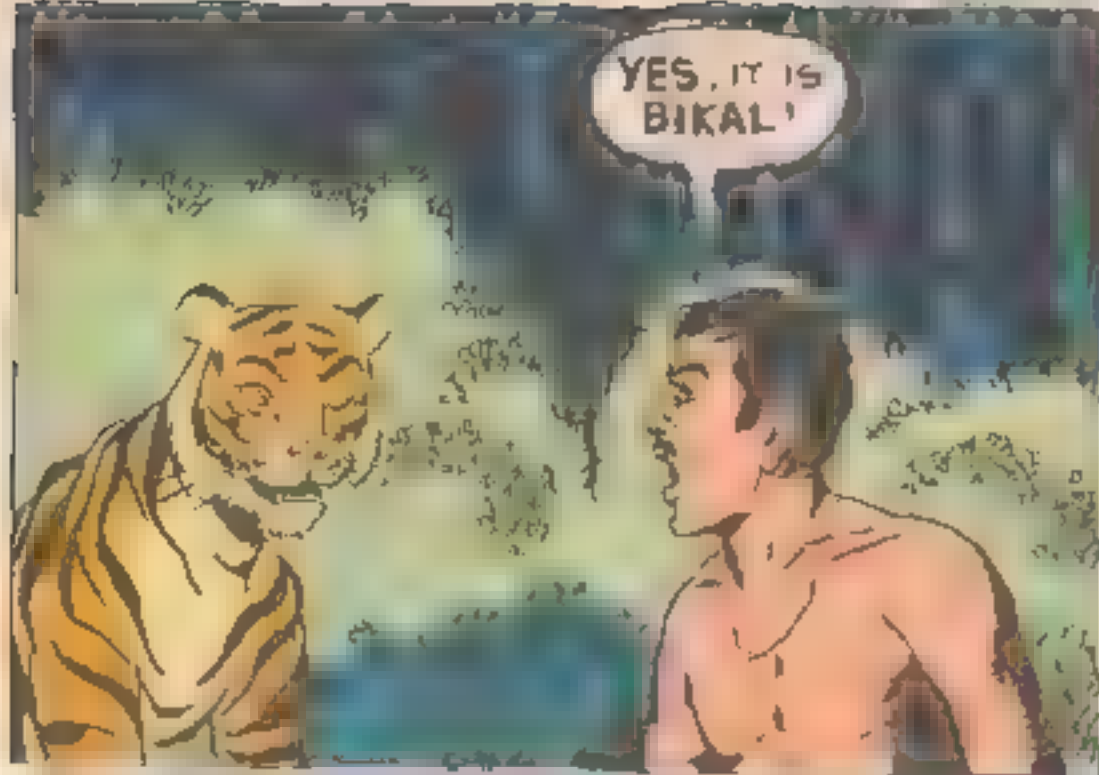




SOMETIME LATER, THE TIGER WHO WAS PATIENTLY WAITING FOR THE SUN TO RISE, HEARD A WEIRD SOUND



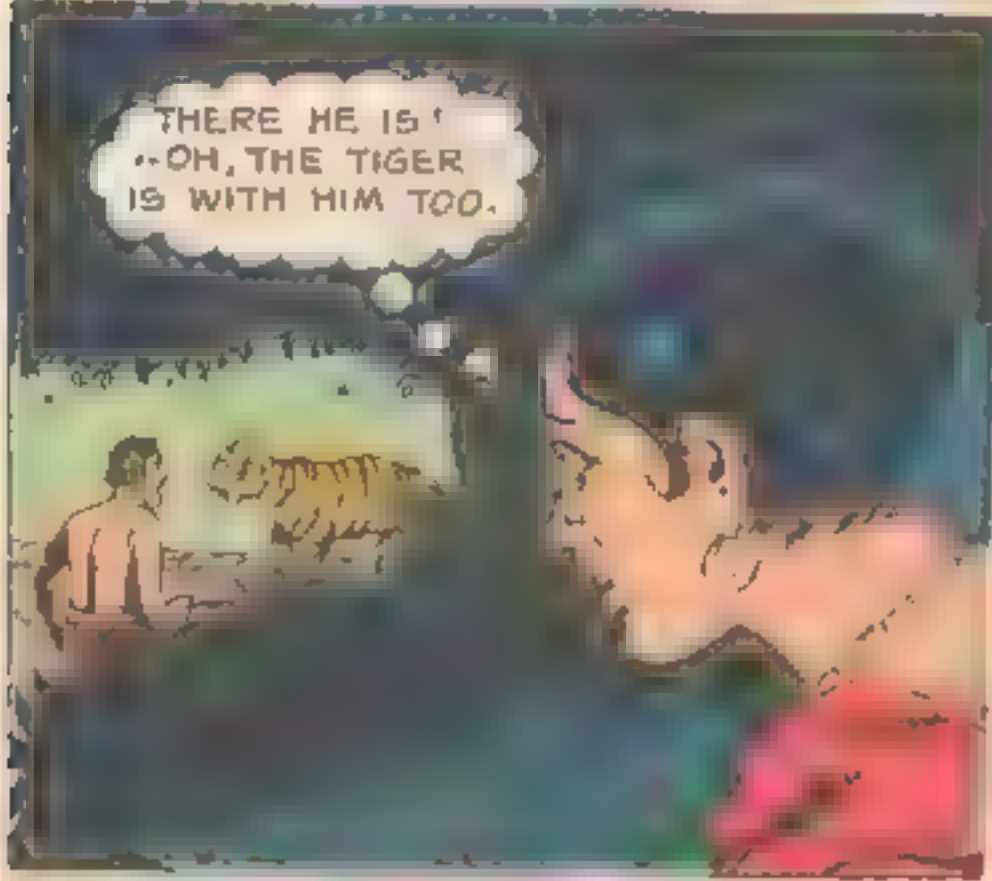




YES, IT IS  
BIKAL!



THAT WAS MY  
HUSBAND'S VOICE!  
HE'S ALIVE!



THERE HE IS!  
OH, THE TIGER  
IS WITH HIM TOO.



THE TIGER  
THINKS I AM  
BIKAL! AND HE'S  
TERRIFIED!  
GOOD! I'LL PLAY  
UPON THAT!



WHO'S THERE?  
ARE THERE ANY  
TIGERS AROUND  
FOR ME TO EAT?



HE'S LOOKING FOR  
TIGERS TO EAT! WHAT  
SHOULD I DO?

HOW  
SHOULD  
I KNOW?



AHA! I CAN  
SMELL A TIGER!



PLEASE HELP ME  
IF YOU DO, I WON'T  
EAT YOU.

WELL, I'LL TRY.  
JUST LIE DOWN  
AND KEEP  
STILL.



SPEAK UP! HAVE  
YOU SEEN ANY  
TIGERS WHICH  
I CAN EAT?

NO THERE  
AREN'T ANY  
HERE. GO  
AWAY!

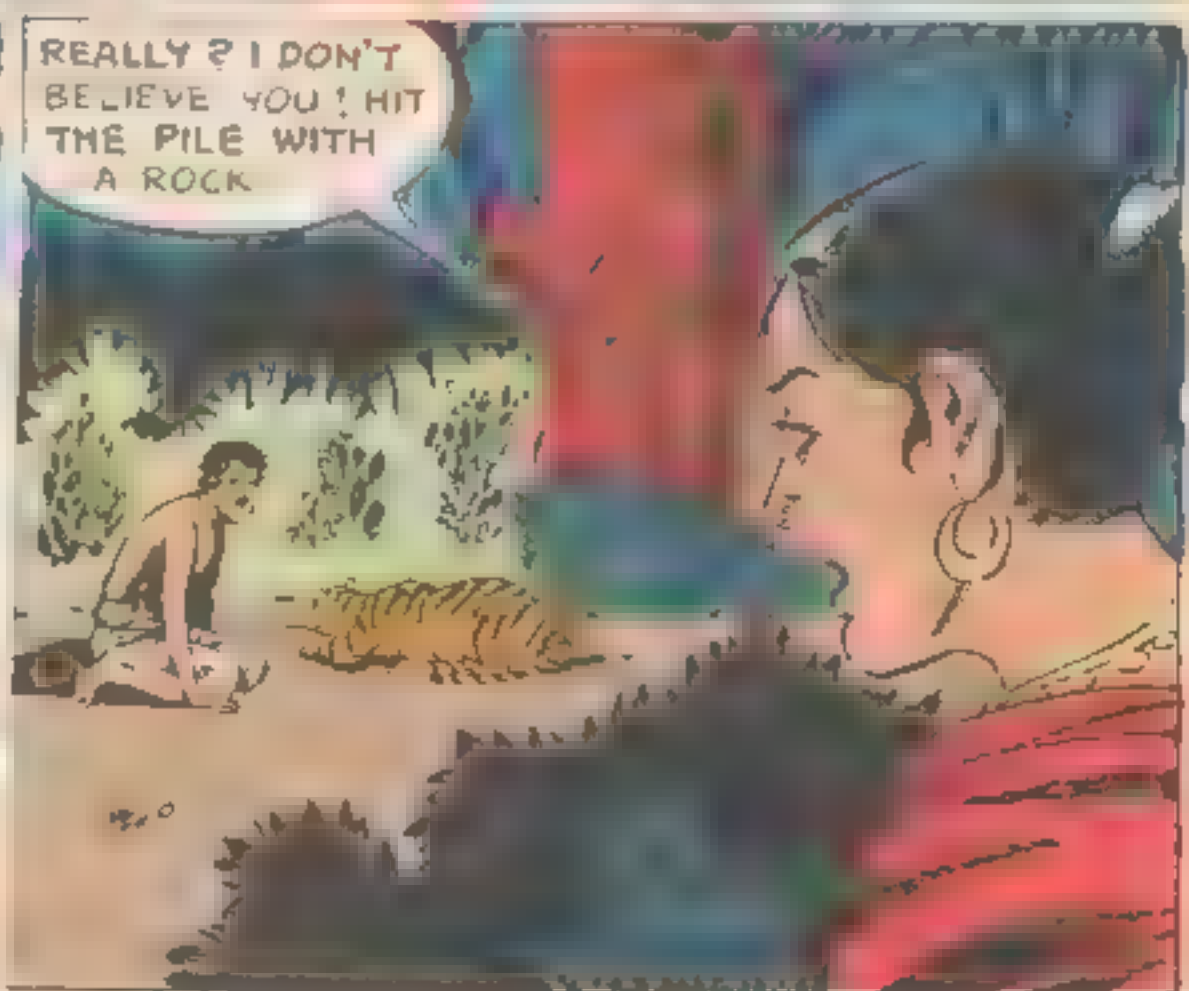


THEN WHAT'S  
THAT NEXT  
TO YOU?

THIS? OH—  
IT'S JUST A  
PILE OF DIRTY  
CLOTHES.



REALLY? I DON'T  
BELIEVE YOU! HIT  
THE PILE WITH  
A ROCK.





AS SHAMBHU HESITATED —

FRIEND, DO HIT  
ME... YOU MUST  
DO WHAT BIKAL  
SAYS IN ORDER  
TO SAVE ME.

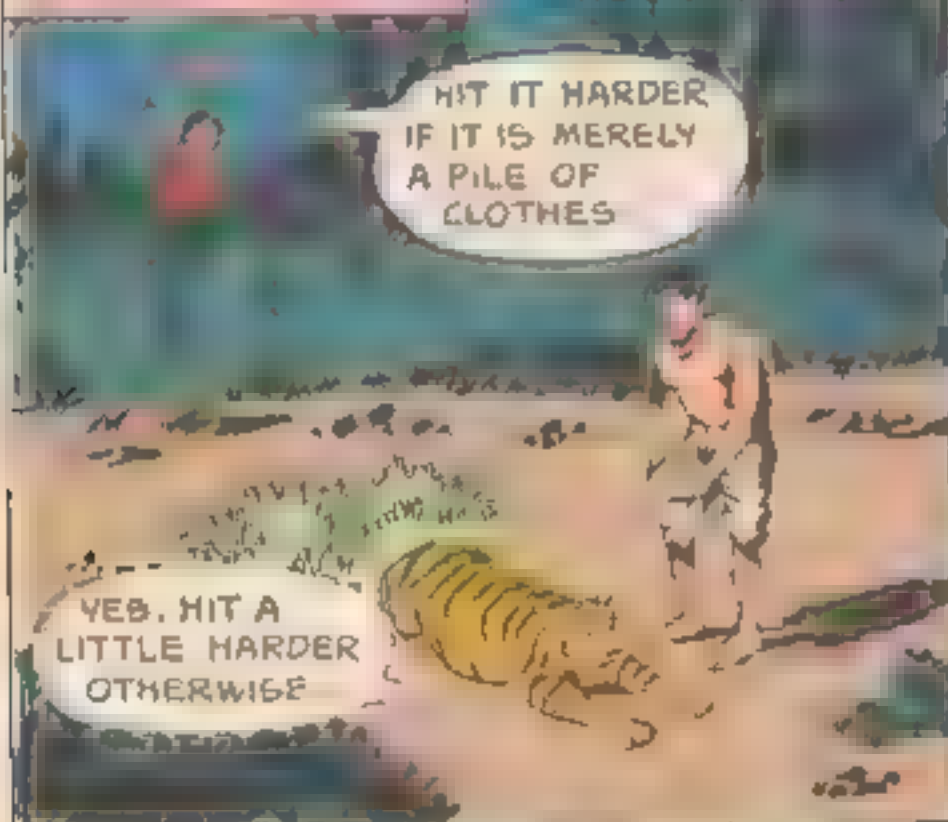


BUT  
HIT ME  
GENTLY



THE COWHERD HIT THE TIGER GENTLY ON  
THE HEAD. THEN —

HIT IT HARDER  
IF IT IS MERELY  
A PILE OF  
CLOTHES



YES, HIT A  
LITTLE HARDER  
OTHERWISE

THIS WENT ON FOR A WHILE.

HARDER!  
HARDER!

YES, A  
LITTLE  
HARDER



AFTER A WHILE —

HARDER...

NO NEED,  
DEAR OUR  
FRIEND  
HAS  
SWOONED



LEAVING THE WOUNDED TIGER TO ITS  
FATE THE CLEVER COUPLE HAPPILY  
RETURNED HOME





# THE TIGER-TAMERS



TWO MISCHIEVOUS BOYS ONCE  
LIVED IN A VILLAGE

THEY DIDN'T DO A SPOT OF WORK BUT ALL THE  
TIME HARASSED THOSE WHO DID.



TAKE A M.



SHOOT!

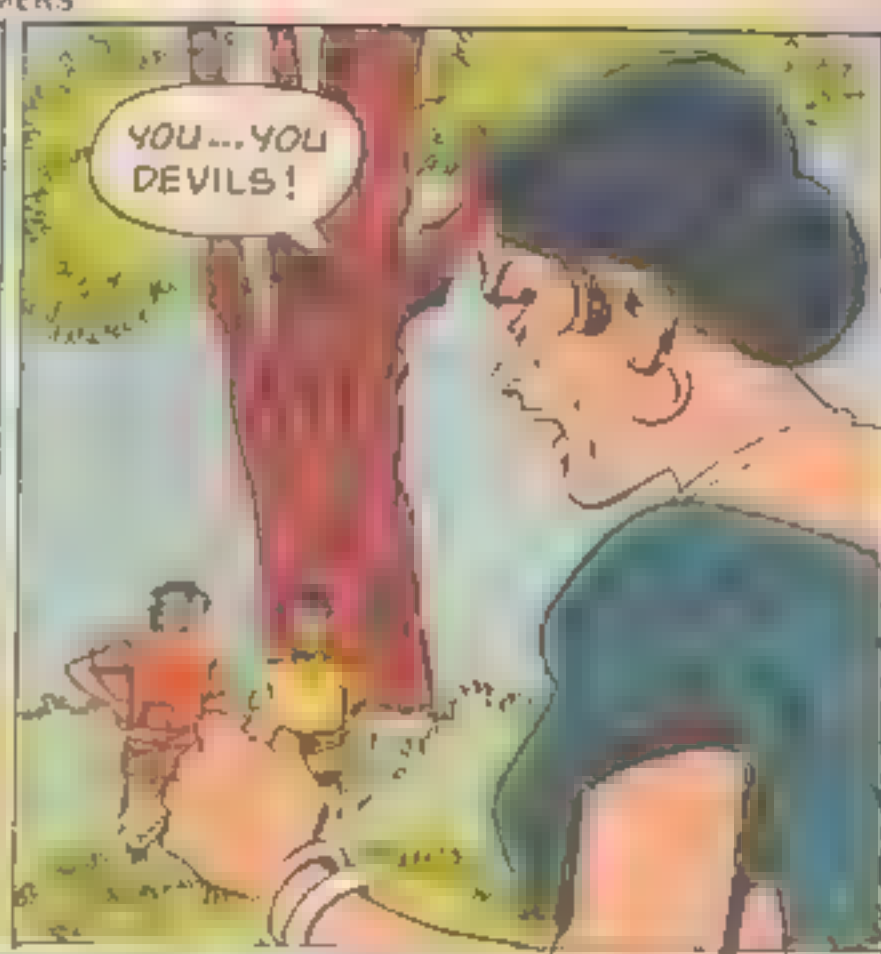


THACK

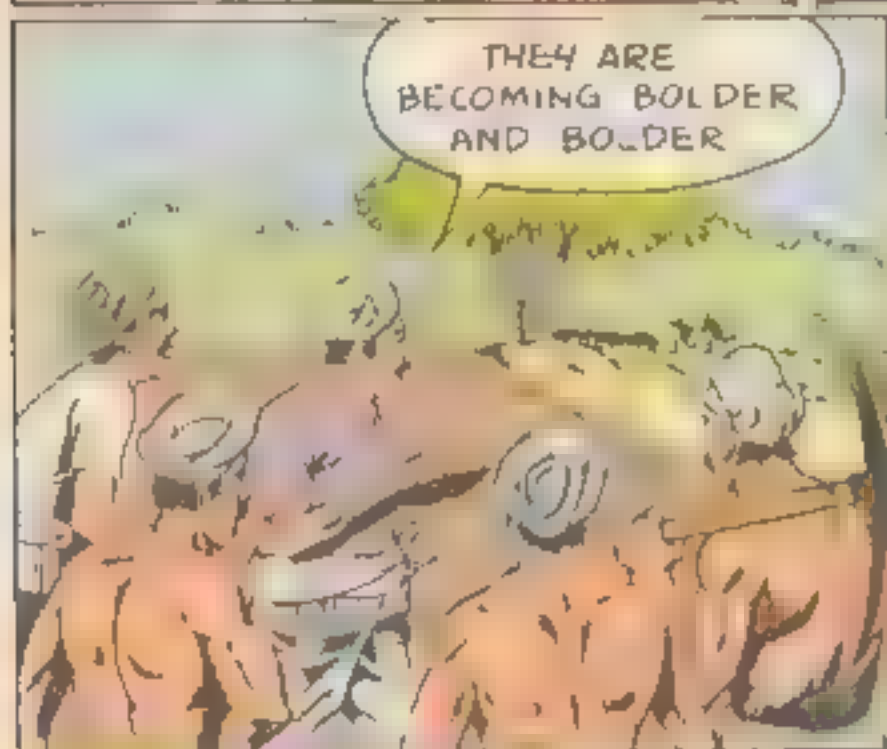
EEEEEEK!



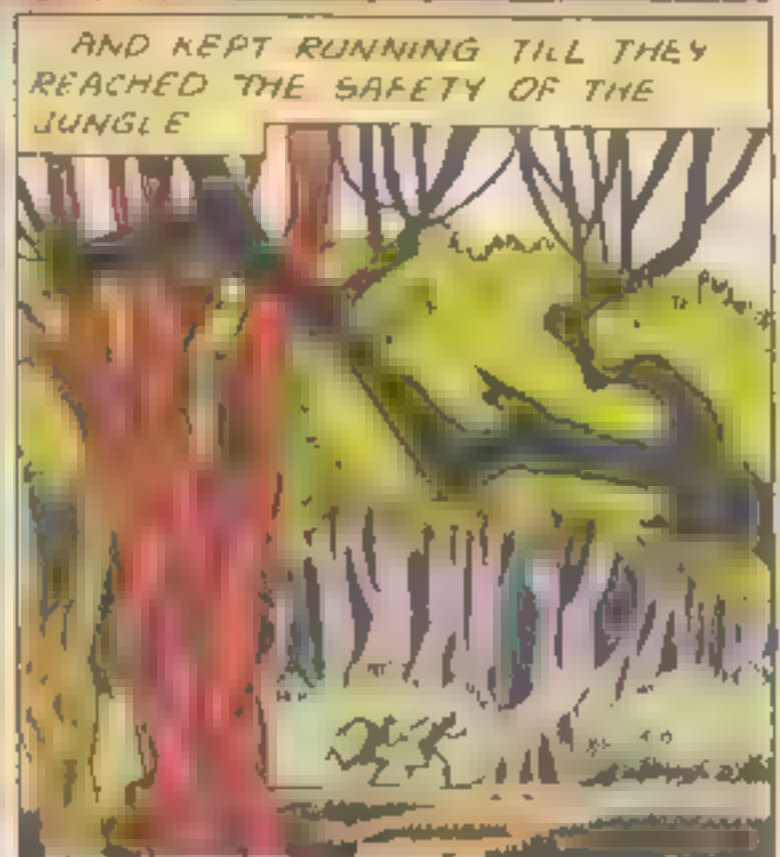
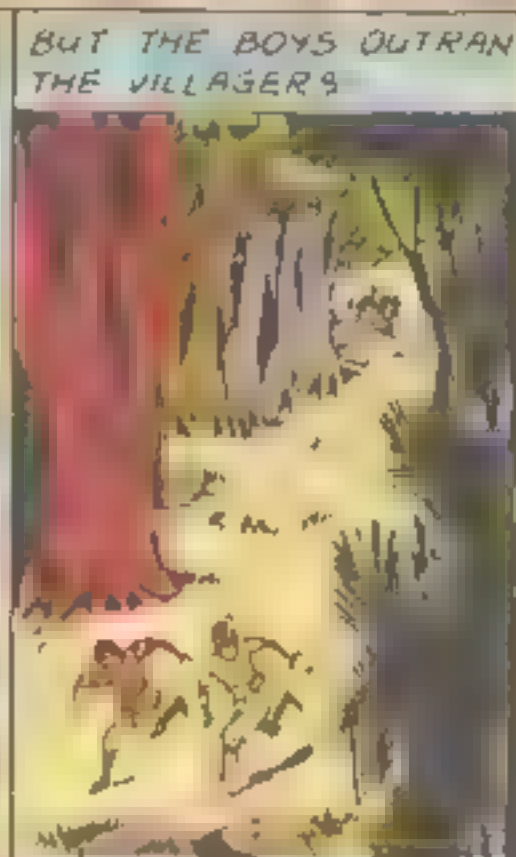






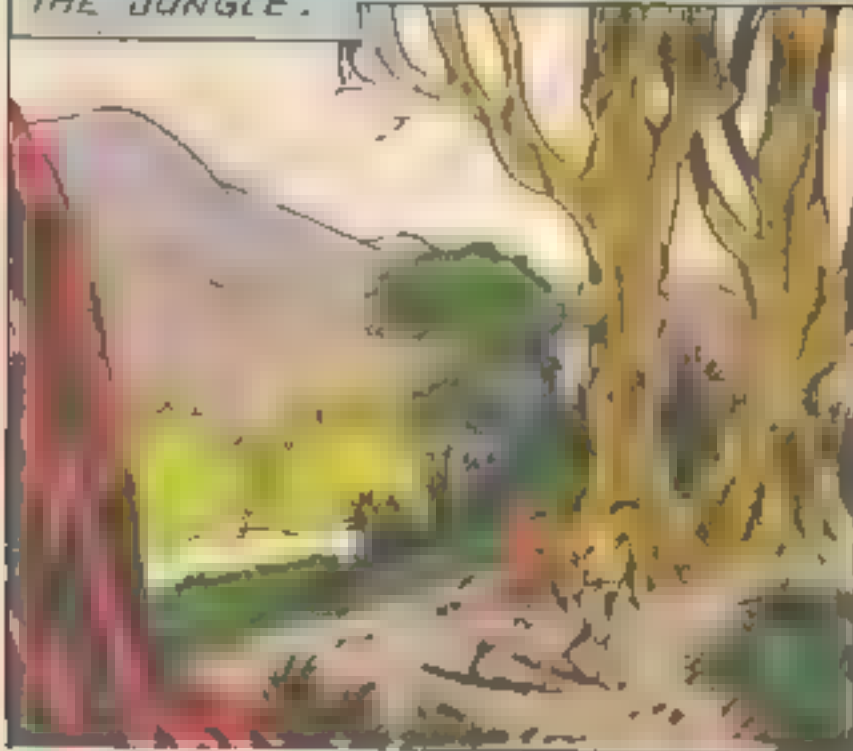








SO THE BOYS WENT DEEPER INTO THE JUNGLE.



THEY WALKED ON AND ON, THEN STOPPED DEAD..



FOR SEATED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE R PATH WAS AN ENORMOUS TIGER



THE YOUNGER BOY SUDDENLY DARTED FORWARD



THREW HIMSELF ON THE TIGER'S BACK



AND CATCHING HOLD OF THE ANIMAL'S EARS PUSHED HIS HEAD DOWN. AT THE SAME TIME THE OLDER BOY GRABBED HIS TAIL.



GOT YOU!



THE TIGER WAS STARTLED OUT OF HIS WITS.



ARRGH! WHAT'S HAPPENING?  
WHO HAS CAUGHT ME?



W-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?

WE ARE TIGER-HUNTERS



WE NEED A TIGER TO PULL OUR PLOUGH.

YOU USE TIGERS TO PULL YOUR PLOUGH!



THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE  
WHAT YOU NEED IS A PAIR OF BULLOCKS.

WHEN YOU PLOUGH WITH BULLOCKS  
YOU GET ONLY RICE AND SUCH CROPS



...BUT WHEN YOU PLOUGH WITH TIGERS YOU GET GOLD AND SILVER

S-S THAT'S SO?



WE HAVE ALREADY CAUGHT ONE TIGER, YOU ARE THE SECOND ONE

THIS IS TERRIBLE







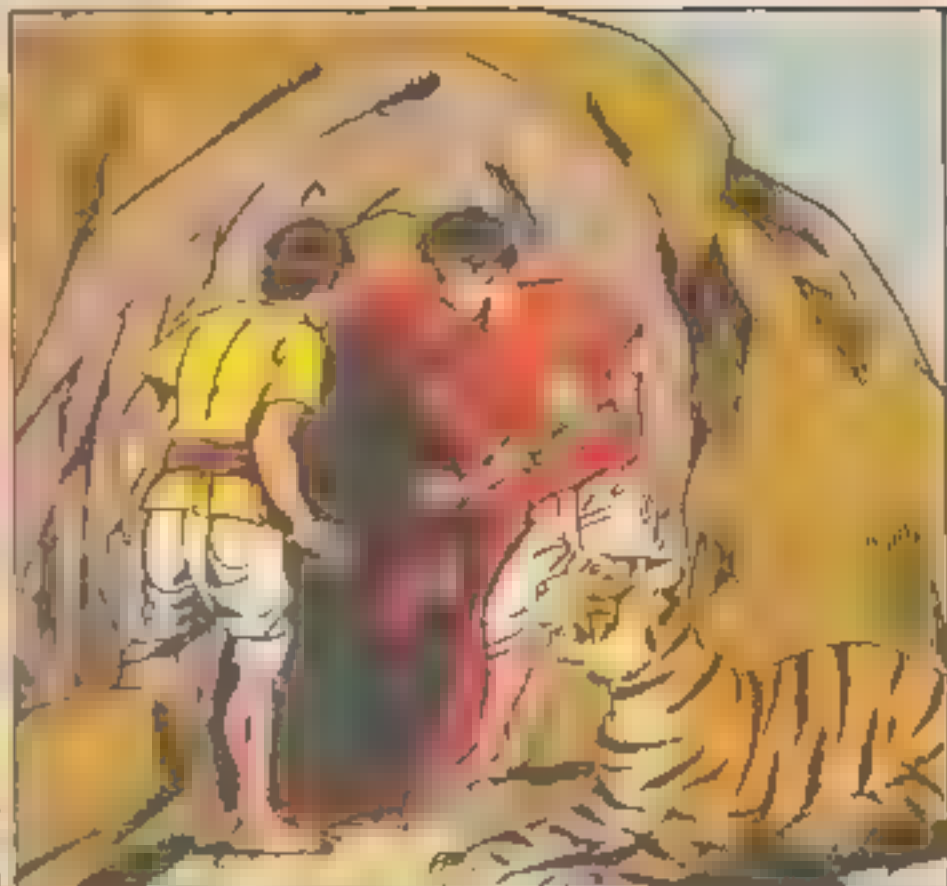




THE TIGER, TREMBLING WITH FEAR, LED THE BOYS TO HIS CAVE

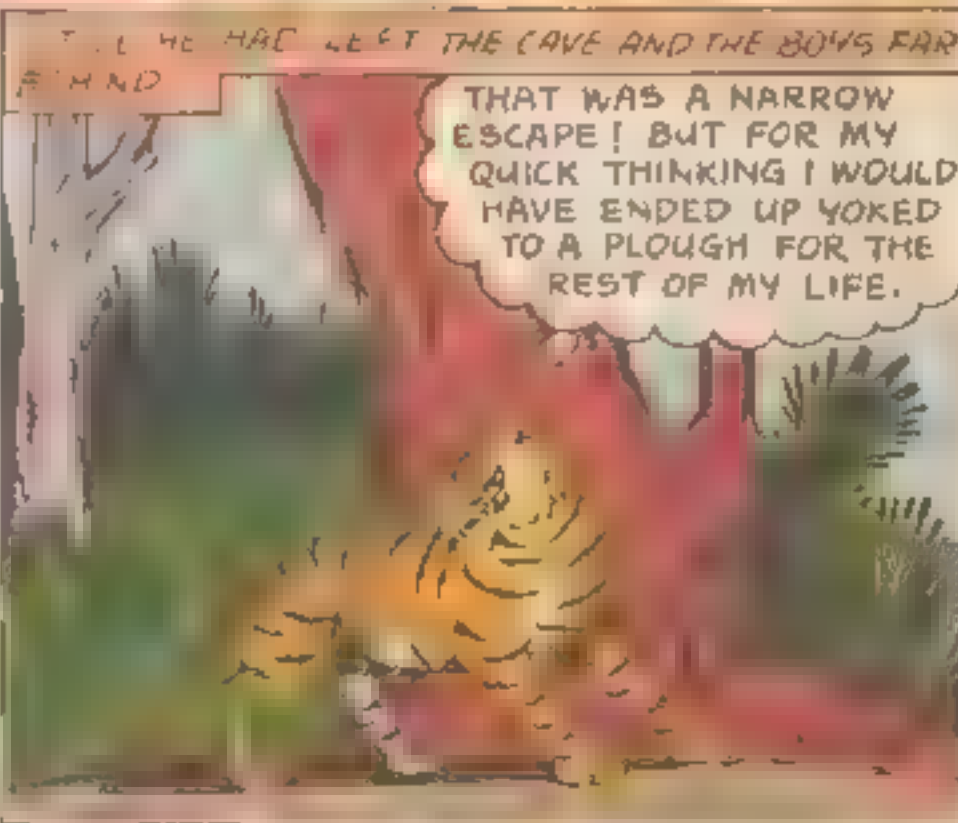


THIS IS WHERE  
LIVE. NOW  
PLEASE LET ME



IF THEY THINK I AM  
GOING TO WAIT FOR  
THEM, THEY ARE  
MISTAKEN.

THE TIGER RAN AND RAN



UNTIL HE HAD LEFT THE CAVE AND THE BOYS FAR  
BEHIND

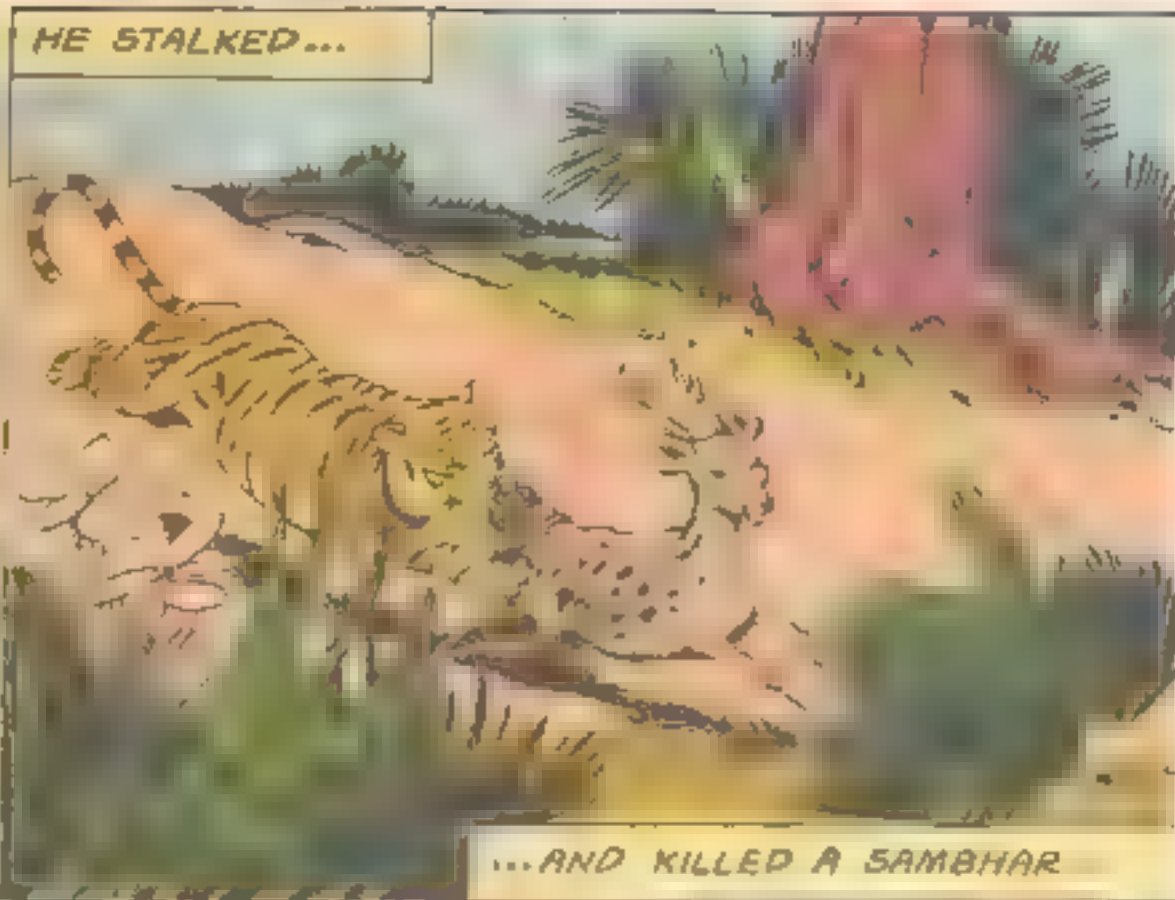
THAT WAS A NARROW  
ESCAPE! BUT FOR MY  
QUICK THINKING I WOULD  
HAVE ENDED UP YOKED  
TO A PLOUGH FOR THE  
REST OF MY LIFE.



NOW TO FEED  
THE TWELVE  
TIGERS



HE STALKED...



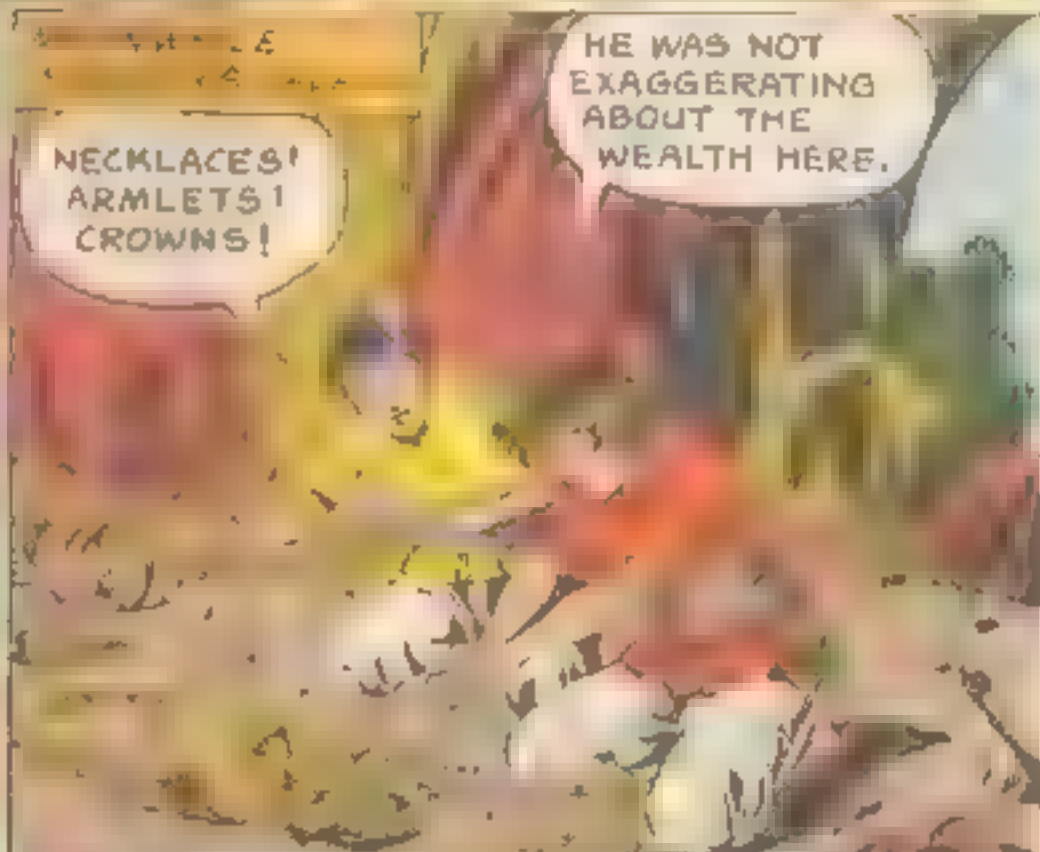
...AND KILLED A SAMBHAR

...AND WENT TO INVITE HIS FRIENDS  
TO EAT WITH HIM.



NECKLACES!  
ARMLETS!  
CROWNS!

HE WAS NOT  
EXAGGERATING  
ABOUT THE  
WEALTH HERE.



THE TWO BOYS GATHERED TOGETHER ALL  
THE ORNAMENTS LYING IN AND AROUND  
THE CAVE



AND NOT FINDING THE TIGER OUTSIDE





...WENT ON THEIR WAY.



AS THEY WALKED ON—



ARE WE GOING  
TOWARDS THE  
VILLAGE OR AWAY  
FROM IT?

I DON'T  
KNOW

I THINK WE ARE  
LOST. TRY TO REMEMBER  
WHICH WAY WE CAME..  
WHAT ARE YOU  
STARING AT?

TIGERS!



TEN—  
TWELVE—  
THIRTEEN  
OF THEM.



WE'RE  
DONE FOR  
IF THEY  
SEE US!



LET'S  
CLIMB UP  
THAT TREE.





FASTER!

ONE OF THE BOYS  
MANAGED TO SCRAMBLE  
ONTO A BRANCH...

BUT THE OTHER WAS A LITTLE SLOW  
AND HE WAS STILL HALF-WAY UP THE  
TRUNK WHEN THE TIGERS CAME  
INTO VIEW.

I'D BETTER  
STAY WHERE I AM.  
IF I MOVE, IT'LL  
ATTRACT THEIR  
ATTENTION.

HERE IS THE  
SAMBHAR, MY  
FRIENDS.

WE'LL DRAG  
IT TO THAT  
TREE AND EAT  
IT THERE.





THE TIGERS MADE THEMSELVES COMFORTABLE UNDER THE TREE. THEN THE OLDEST AMONG THEM TURNED TO THE HOST

NOW BEFORE WE START, PLEASE TELL US WHY YOU ARE FEASTING US

ER WELL

LET'S SAY, IT'S TO CELEBRATE MY NARROW ESCAPE.

NARROW ESCAPE ?

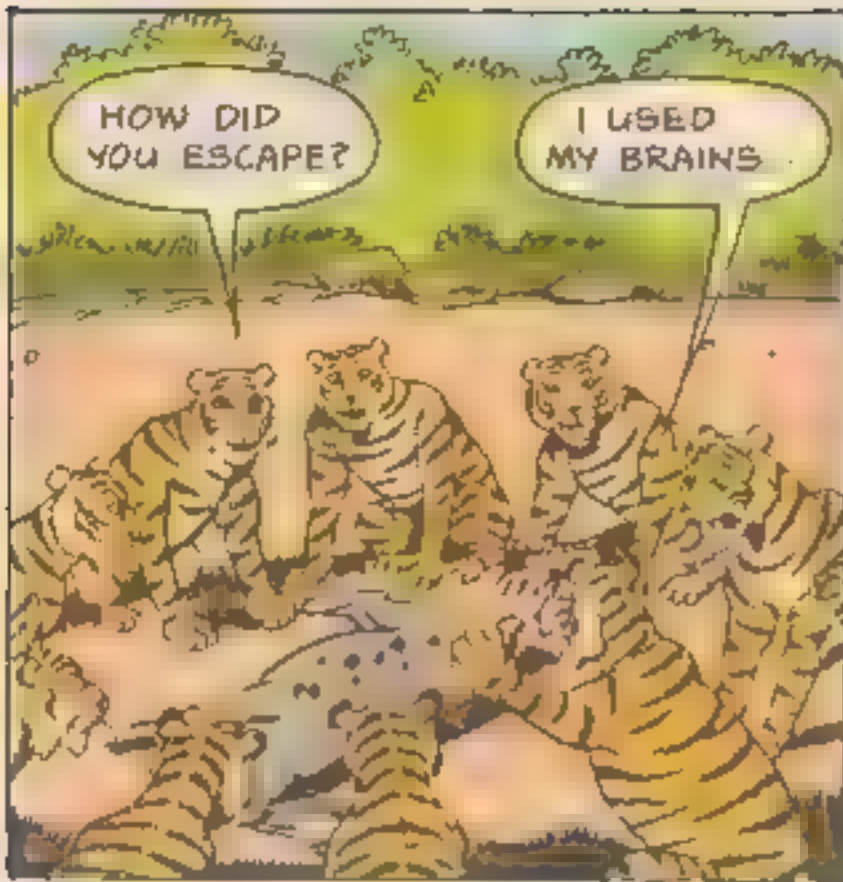
YES THIS AFTER-NOON I WAS SEIZED BY TWO MONSTERS SUCH FIENDISH CREATURES YOU COULD NEVER HAVE SEEN BEFORE !

THEY NEEDED TWO TIGERS TO PULL THEIR PLOUGH AND THEY HAD ALREADY CAUGHT ONE. THEY WERE ALL SET TO TAKE ME AWAY TOO.

YOU DON'T SAY !



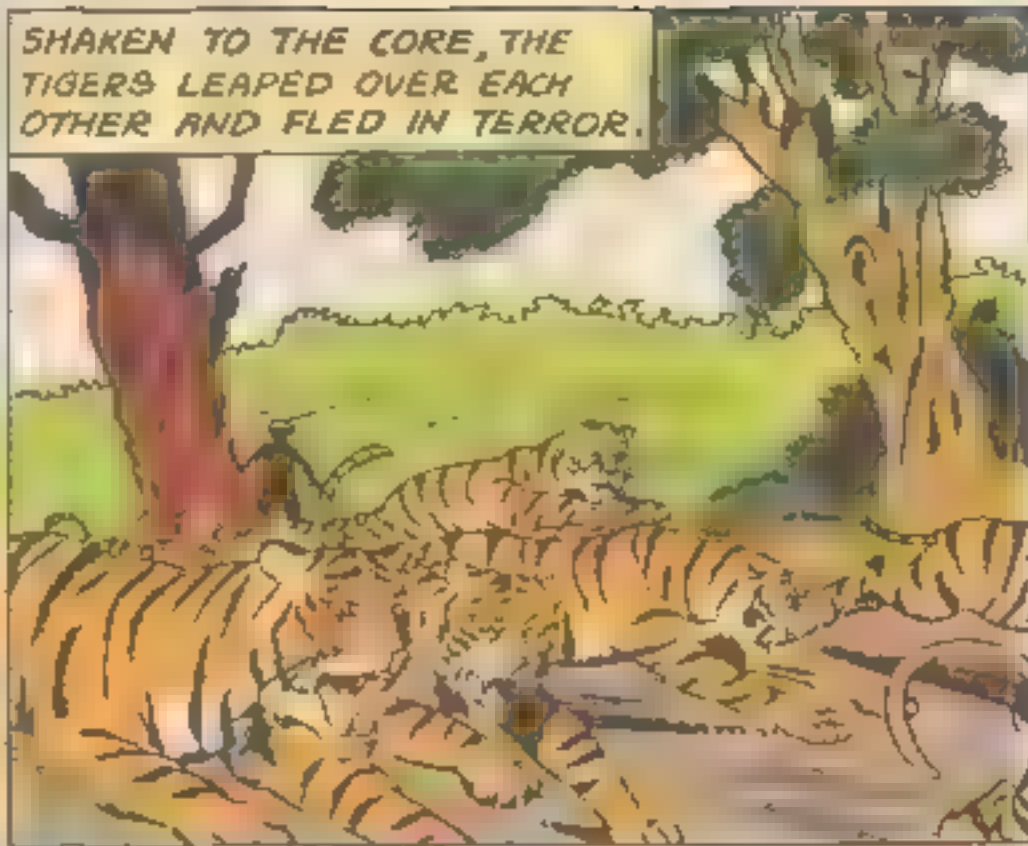








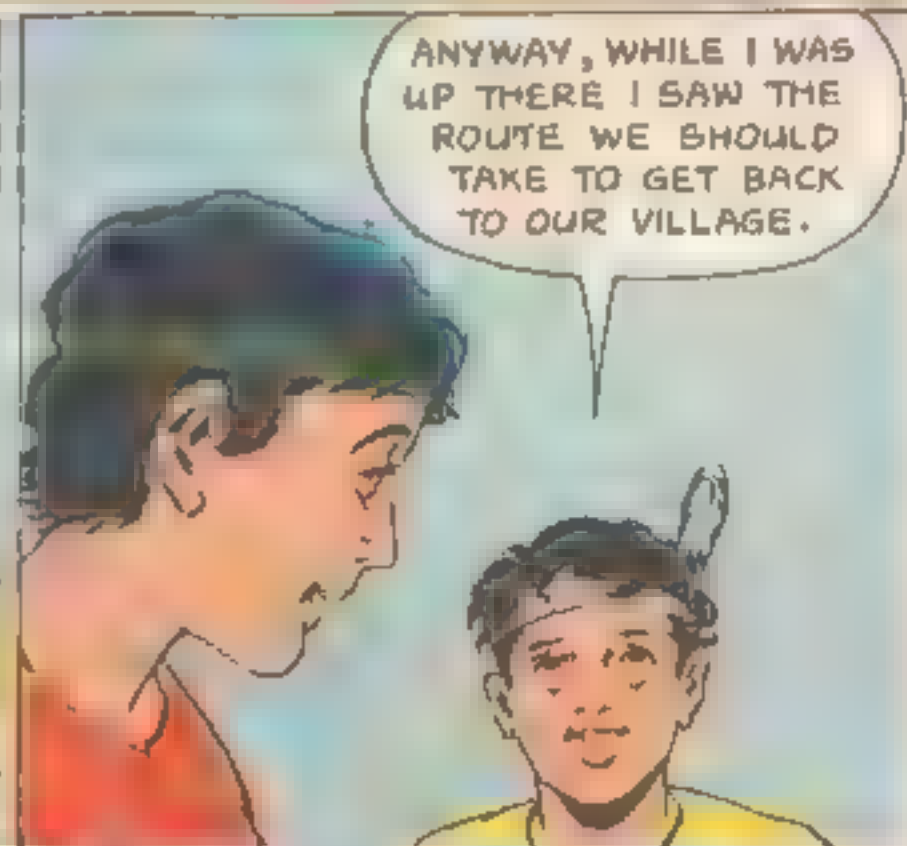
RUN! RUN  
FOR YOUR  
LIVES!



SHAKEN TO THE CORE, THE  
TIGERS LEAPED OVER EACH  
OTHER AND FLED IN TERROR.



GOOD THINKING,  
BROTHER. I THOUGHT  
IT WAS THE END  
FOR ME.



ANYWAY, WHILE I WAS  
UP THERE I SAW THE  
ROUTE WE SHOULD  
TAKE TO GET BACK  
TO OUR VILLAGE.



SO LET'S GO  
BACK HOME. THOSE  
PEOPLE ARE SURE TO  
FORGIVE US WHEN  
THEY HEAR ABOUT  
OUR ADVENTURE  
AND SEE WHAT WE  
HAVE IN OUR  
BUNDLE.



# It's magic!



## Wonder Bridge:

Challenge someone to make a piece of paper support a glass atop two spaced glasses.

### Secret:

Fold the paper concertina-wise. It's strong enough to carry the glass!



## Disappearing Pencil:

Place a pencil under a handkerchief. Toss the handkerchief aside and the pencil is gone!

### Secret:

As soon as you've placed the pencil under the handkerchief, extend your

fore-finger to make it appear to be the pencil holding up the handkerchief.

At the same time, drop the pencil down your sleeve. When the handkerchief is removed, the pencil is gone! Remember, magic means practice and practice builds your confidence in the art of magic.



## 4 Coins to 5:

Set up four coins on a table in front of you. Count them off so that there can be no mistake about the fact that there are only four coins on the table.

Now slide these coins off the table and — voilà — you have five!

### Secret:

Under the table there is a fifth coin which you have attached with a piece of soap. While you are gathering the four coins from the table top, simply reach under the table with your fingers, palming the fifth coin. A neat trick.

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FRIENDS!  
A COLLECTION OF  
MY ADVENTURES IS  
NOW AVAILABLE IN  
A SPECIAL BUMPER  
ISSUE!

I AM IN IT TOO!

THOSE TWO! ALWAYS  
HOGGING THE  
LIMELIGHT! WHO DO  
THEY THINK THEY  
ARE!

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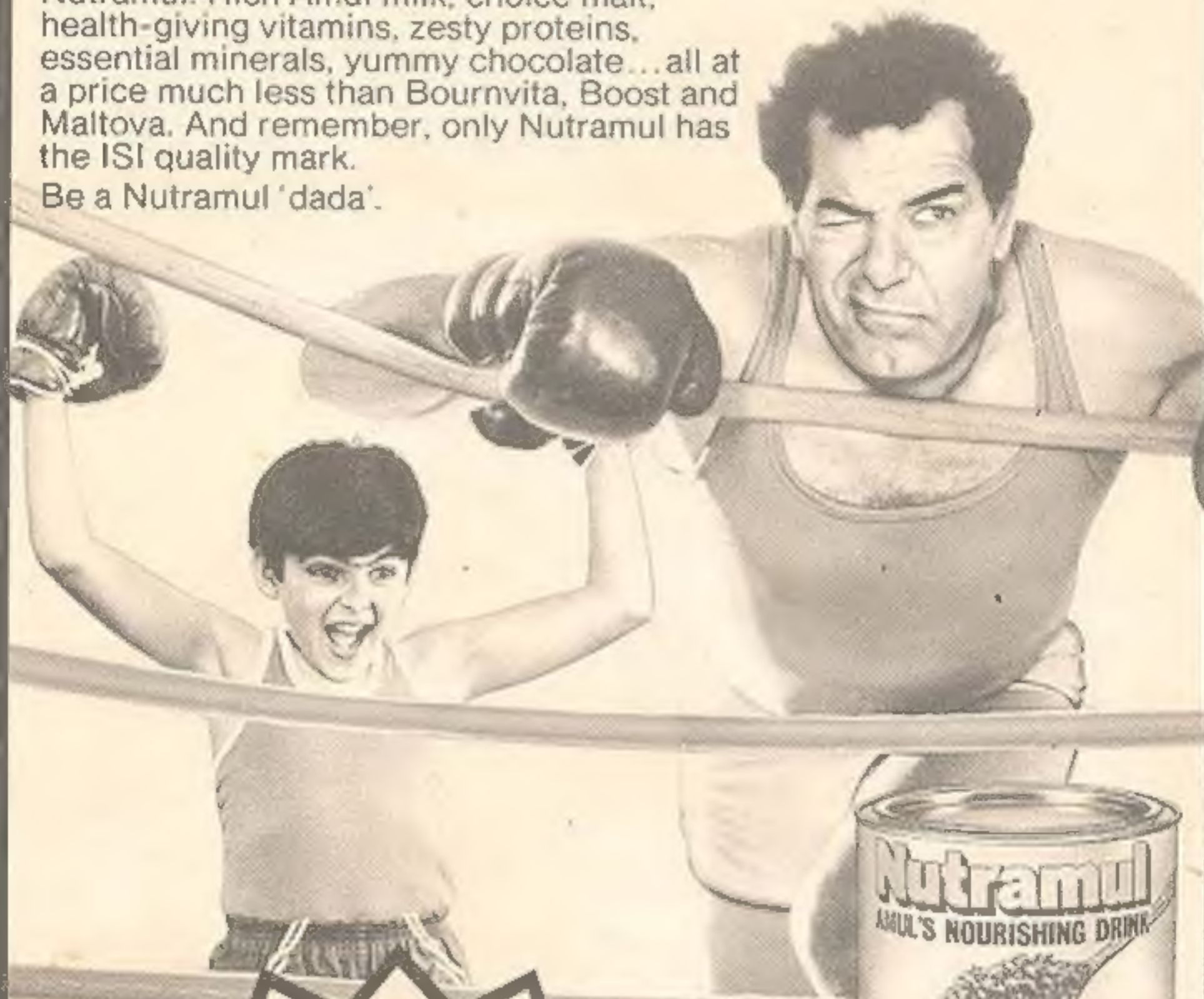


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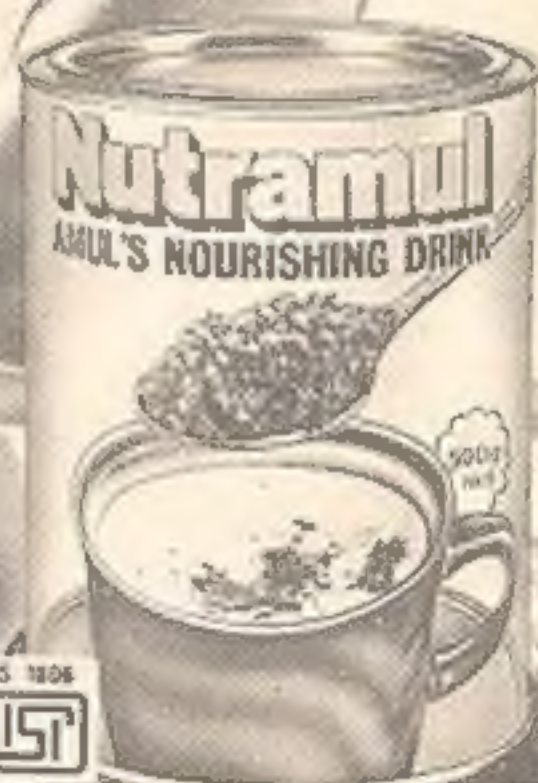
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